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# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Georgian SSR) REPORT [REDACTED]  
 SUBJECT Tbilisi and the Surrounding Area DATE DISTR. 19 December 1958

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

A report on Tbilisi (N 41-42, E 44-45) and the surrounding area [REDACTED]

The report contains information on topography, housing construction, population, industries, utilities, transportation, street systems and bridges, prices of consumer goods, educational and religious facilities, hospitals, Party-sponsored lectures, resistance activity, civil defense, and personalities. A [REDACTED] sketch of the city with a key listing 80 installations and an area overlay showing the location of a hydroelectric plant, a lake, and the city are included.

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## TBILISI AND SURROUNDING AREA

General Description

1. [redacted] the Tbiliskiy Pryadilno-Trikotazhnyy Kombinat (yarn and knitting mill), Tbilisi, [redacted] the city [redacted] covering an area 18 kilometers by two and one-half kilometers in dimension, located on both sides of the Kura River. Efforts were being made to forest the barren slopes of the mountains at the eastern side of Tbilisi where a health and recreational area was being developed near Tbiliskoye More, a large artificial lake created in 1953 by joining three smaller lakes. [redacted] Tbilisi inhabitants had been concerned by the possibility of being flooded in the event of an earth tremor, common to the area during summer, which would disrupt the new lake bed. Tbilisi's moderate climate ranged from temperatures of 40° centigrade in summer to 5° centigrade in the winter. 25X1
2. [redacted] sketch of the city plan of Tbilisi based on an overlay of the City of Tbilisi (reverse side of map of Tbilisi, [redacted] which has been reproduced as an attachment to this report. [redacted] identified the numerically designated points on this sketch as follows: 25X1
  - (1) Central Government Building containing all local government offices.
  - (2) Communist Party Headquarters Building where MVD offices were also located.
  - (3) Lenin Square, the central square of the City of Tbilisi.
  - (4) Military Headquarters for the Caucasus area.
  - (5) Bus station.
  - (6) Government museum.
  - (7) City Hall and city administrative offices.
  - (8) Square, name unknown.
  - (9) Gosbank.
  - (10) Inturist Hotel where most visitors stayed.
  - (11) Ministry of Health.
  - (12) Rustaveli Hotel.
  - (13) Telephone and Telegraph Center.
  - (14) Newspaper offices and printing plant.
  - (15) Ministry of Communications.

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- (16) Komsomol Offices.
- (17) Hotel and restaurant which was open only during the summer season.
- (18) Television tower.
- (19) Larger Resort Park i/n Stalin.
- (20) Statue of Stalin.
- (21) Double, cable carline to Stalin Park.
- (22) New residential district.
- (23) New stadium.
- (24) Student dormitories.
- (25) University of Tbilisi Law School
- (26) University of Tbilisi School of Education.
- (27) University of Tbilisi School of Science.
- (28) University of Tbilisi Medical Institute.
- (29) University of Tbilisi
- (30) New street completed in 1954, name unknown.
- (31) Ministry of Food Supply.
- (32) Radio station.
- (33) Fire station.
- (34) Catholic church.
- (35) Athletic field (summer sports).
- (36) Post Office.
- (37) Orthodox Church.
- (38) Hotel.
- (39) Zavod 26 Komisarov.
- (40) Ulitsa 25 Fevralya.
- (40a) Library
- (41) Red Cross and Red Crescent Offices.
- (42) Ulitsa Krylova.
- (43) Palace of Culture (winter sports).
- (44) Ulitsa Sartanya.

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- (45) Main railroad station.
- (46) Ulitsa Chelyuskintsev.
- (47) Open Market and Bazaar.
- (48) University of Marxism-Leninism (evening classes).
- (49) Main offices for Caucasian Petroleum Industry.
- (50) Circus Building and Grounds.
- (51) Square, name unknown.
- (52) Railroad Shop and Steam Locomotive Works.
- (53) Square, name unknown.
- (54) Hospital for treatment of tuberculosis.
- (55) Municipal Stadium.
- (56) Electric Locomotive Works.
- (57) Textile Factory (wool).
- (58) Hospital for treatment of infectious diseases.
- (59) Tbiliskiy Pryadilno-Trikotazhnyy Kombinat.
- (60) Fire Station.
- (61) Zavod i/m Kirova.
- (62) Trikotazhnaya Ulitsa.
- (63) Ulitsa Kolektivnatsiya.
- (64) Sewage Disposal Plant.
- (65) Cemetery.
- (66) Tbiliskoye More.
- (67) Bus Station and Tbiliskoye More Management Offices.
- (68) Military Camp and Barracks.
- (69) Bus Station.
- (70) Highway leading to Lake.
- (71) Military Camp and Barracks.
- (72) Municipal Prison.
- (73) Militia Headquarters.
- (74) Military Academy (artillery).

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- (75) Army Camp and Barracks.  
 (76) Army Camp and Barracks.  
 (77) Shoe Factory.  
 (78) Melnyy Kombinat.  
 (79) Aviation Plant No. 31.  
 (80) Civil and Military Airport.

3. [redacted] new housing areas were being constructed throughout the city, particularly in the southern and western sections. Bake (see attached overlay sketch of the city plan of Tbilisi) was the most recently completed housing development. The new brick and cement multiple apartment units were from eight to nine stories high. [redacted] there were no new industrial plants under construction in Tbilisi.

Population

4. [redacted] the population of Tbilisi to be approximately 200,000, of which some 40 percent were Russian-speaking Armenians, 45 percent were Georgians who spoke only their own language, and the remainder were Russians. The majority of laborers and factory workers were Armenians, whereas the Georgians were usually employed as clerks, merchants and taxi drivers. [redacted] prison labor had been utilized only during and shortly after World War II. In 1956 the city experienced an influx of labor, and temporary, cheap housing units called "chabolos" [redacted] people living in Tbilisi, had been constructed on the mountain slopes at the eastern and western outskirts of the city.

Industries.

5. Approximately 30 percent of the population of Tbilisi were employed in the manufacturing centers which included an aircraft production plant and textile mills. Another 15 percent of the working force were employed in the wine, cognac, and tea producing industries. The remainder of the population was occupied with construction of housing, studying at the university or maintaining various cooperatives and stores.
6. The largest industrial sections were concentrated in the northern and southern districts of the city. The northern industrial area contained the textile mills, the locomotive works and Zavod I/M Kirova, a plant which manufactured heavy industrial machinery allegedly for export to China and Korea. This plant was located in a restricted area and was surrounded by a high concrete and brick wall. (See attachment, overlay sketch of Tbilisi, point 61.)
7. [redacted] Zavod I/M 26 Komisarov, located on Peskovskaya ulitsa adjacent to the railroad, was a secret plant which reportedly manufactured steel articles. The plant grounds contained many high chimneys and were surrounded by high brick walls. [redacted]
8. Aviation Factory Number 31 was located in the southern part of the city in a restricted zone. Guards patrolled the walled perimeter of the plant grounds. [redacted] this plant manufactured airplanes during World War II. In addition to aircraft production, aluminum articles were also produced at this plant. (See attachment, point 79.)

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Utilities

9. Electric power was supplied to the city of Tbilisi from a large hydroelectric power plant located at Mtskheta (N 45-50, E 44-42), approximately ten kilometers north of the city. (See overlay sketch of Tbilisi, page 10). Electric power lines carried 220-volt AC current to industrial installations and 120-volt current for domestic consumption. [redacted] there were no natural or artificial gas lines in Tbilisi. Tbiliskoye More was used as a reservoir for the city.

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[redacted] A garbage dump was located near the sewage outlet point on the Kura River, north of the city.

10. In 1956 a television tower had been erected in Tbilisi, however at that time [redacted] telecasts had not yet been received. Tbilisi had a large radio station as well as telephone and telegraph facilities.

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Transportation

11. The Baku-Tbilisi-Yerevan trunk railroad was the main transportation facility serving Tbilisi. The double track railroad line was electrified from Kutaisi (N 42-15, E 42-40) in the north to Tbilisi, from Tbilisi to Yerevan, and from Tbilisi to Baku. A network of highways in the area also permitted truck transportation.
12. The Kura River was shallow, (two to three meters deep) dirty, and unnavigable. High brick walls were constructed along the river's edges, giving it the appearance of a canal. This river which was used for sewage and factory refuse disposal did not freeze in the winter.
13. Streetcars and buses were the principal means of public transportation within the city. All streetcar lines terminated at Stalin Square. Streetcar lines 7 and 9 went in a southerly direction along ulitsa Shanyana and another street, name unknown. Streetcar line 35 led from Stalin Square along Sovetskaya ulitsa to the northern section of the city. Other carlines [redacted] served the "University City" area, or connected with cable car line terminals.
14. Buses which followed routes along Prospekt Rustaveli, Prospekt Flekhanova or ulitsa Lenina provided transportation from Lenin Square to the main highways leading from Tbilisi to other cities and to neighboring mountain resorts.
15. [redacted] jet passenger planes utilized the landing field of the military-commercial airport which was located five kilometers southeast of Tbilisi. [redacted]

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Street System and Bridges

16. The principal streets of Tbilisi were laid in a south to north direction between the mountain ranges at the eastern and western borders of the city. These main thoroughfares included Lenina ulitsa which joined the Georgian Military Highway; Prospekt Flekhanova; Borba ulitsa; which connected with ulitsa Klary Stetkin; ulitsa Shanyana which lead to the airport; a road (name unknown) to Rustavi (N 46-00, E 45-03), a new street which had been constructed through the university area, popularly called the University City, and shorter streets such as Kirova ulitsa, Sartanya, etc. Generally, the streets were wide, old, and in fair condition. Buildings on the right hand side of the streets were numbered even numbers going from south to north, and with odd numbers going from east to west.
17. [redacted] eight bridges [redacted] spanned the Kura River in Tbilisi as identified alphabetically on [redacted] sketch of the city provided as an attachment to this report.

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Bridge "A": A new, reinforced concrete, arch bridge completed in 1953 which was built to accommodate all types of heavy motor traffic, including tanks. The roadway was a continuation of a street which extended from the left and right banks of the river. The bridge's 20-meter wide roadbed included two sidewalks which had iron guard-railings approximately one and one-half meters high.

Bridge "B": A small, wooden, foot bridge.

Bridge "C": In 1956 only the pilings had been constructed for this projected bridge.

Bridge "D": The main bridge in Tbilisi over which traveled the heaviest amount of bus, streetcar, truck, and vehicular traffic. This bridge was similar to Bridge "A" in construction, except that the roadbed was between 30 to 40 meters wide, approximately 55 meters long, and eight and one-half meters above the river. This bridge was the continuation of ulitsa Chelyuskintsev which led from the main railroad station to the center of the city.

Bridge "E": Similarly constructed but smaller than bridges "A" and "D". Heavy traffic including trucks and autobuses also utilized this narrow bridge.

Bridge "F": A new (1953) bridge, similar to bridge "A" designed for heavy traffic. The roadbed was approximately 25 meters wide and was between four or five meters above the river.

Bridge "G": A one-way, steel truss, single span, arch bridge which accommodated streetcars, buses and trucks. The roadway was approximately 12 meters wide, 35 meters long, and was constructed approximately eight and one-half meters above the river surface.

Bridge "H": Similar to bridge "F" in size and use.

Bridge "I": A steel bridge without arches which was no longer used to any great extent.

#### Economic Conditions

18. During the years 1948 through 1956, [ ] food supplies in Tbilisi were adequate but the prices were high. Shoes were scarce and of poor quality, and it was necessary to pay a bribe of 100 or more rubles above the price of 400 rubles for a pair of shoes for an adult. In 1956 the cost of a poor quality suit was 2,200 rubles, and a dress, 1,000 rubles. High prices of food on the open market reflected the scarcity of products in the state markets. Fruits and vegetables were abundant since there were many orchards and truck gardens in the Tbilisi area.

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#### Sociological Factors

19. Tbilisi had many educational institutions including a large university, which was located in a section called "University City". (See attached overlay sketch of the city of Tbilisi). A large library and museum were also included in the city's public educational facilities. Religious services were held in the four Russian orthodox and one Roman catholic churches of Tbilisi.

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20. The city's recreational facilities included two sport stadiums and one indoor and outdoor athletic center. During the summer, the area surrounding Tbiliskoye More, and Stalin Park were popular recreation spots.
21. The Gorodskaya Bolnitsa was the largest hospital in Tbilisi. Several hospitals for treatment of infectious diseases were located in the Soburtolo District in the northwestern section of the city. A hospital for tubercular patients was located on ulitsa Borba. [ ] every summer cases of dysentery reached epidemic proportions. [ ] the recurrence of this disease was the result of the failure of the populace to take sanitary precautions and their predisposition to the heavy drinking of vodka.
22. Cultural meetings lasting two hours were held every week in all the factory shops of Tbilisi. During these CP sponsored sessions, anti-religious propaganda was a popular topic. Although the meetings were allegedly not compulsory, all workers attended for fear of being identified as anti-religious. [ ] the mutual dislike of the Georgian population for the Armenians and Russians frequently resulted in street brawls. An example of the anti-Soviet sentiment existent in the Tbilisi area was the Georgian uprising of 1955 [ ] described as follows:

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On 5 April 1955 a group of students entered and overcame the officials of the Tbilisi Telephone and Telegraph Building and the radio station. After taking over the broadcasting studio of the radio station, the students broadcast repeatedly that the revolution had begun and the time had come for all the people to rise against the regime and the Party. The entire city was in a turmoil and soon various groups of rebellious inhabitants attacked the Government Building where they captured the Communist Party chief. The CP leader was forced to march through the streets carrying a Georgian flag and carrying a placard which stated that he was the leader of the revolt. The revolutionists also took over the press offices and printed a newspaper proclaiming the independence of the Georgian Republic. On 8 April 1955, Soviet Armed Forces intervened and unidentified tank and artillery units from camps south of Tbilisi were sent to overcome the uprising. Martial law was declared throughout the city and 2200 hour curfew was enforced. Formation of groups of more than two persons was prohibited and talking in the streets was forbidden. The revolt was completely suppressed by 9 April after hundreds of arrests and political prisoner evacuations had been effected. [ ] more than 100 rebels and soldiers were killed during the uprising.

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#### Civil Defense

23. Under the DOSAAF program, civil defense instruction was given to unemployed residents of Tbilisi and to all factory, school and business personnel through DOSAAF units organized at each installation. [ ] each installation nominated a DOSAAF committee headed by a president (which at a factory was usually the chief guard) whose duty it was to plan and conduct air raid and fire drills several times a year. These exercises consisted of the sounding of an air raid alarm, the reporting of all personnel to a designated point, the attendance of the volunteer DOSAAF first aid groups to the "wounded", the fire-fighting drills by those DOSAAF groups designated for this type of defense activity, and the return of all personnel to their normal occupations at the sound of the all-clear siren. [ ] all factory personnel paid two rubles a month for the support of the DOSAAF organization. [ ] no air raid shelters in Tbilisi other than the shelters located at the Tbiliskiy Pryadilno-Trikotaznyy Kombinat [ ]

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**Personalities**

24.  names of the following Soviet political personalities who were present in Tbilisi in 1956:

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Mudzhrishvili, fnu; Chairman of Council of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia.

Georgadze, fnu; Communist Party Secretary, Tbilisi;

Sikharuldze, fnu; Communist Party Secretary of Culture and Sports, Tbilisi.

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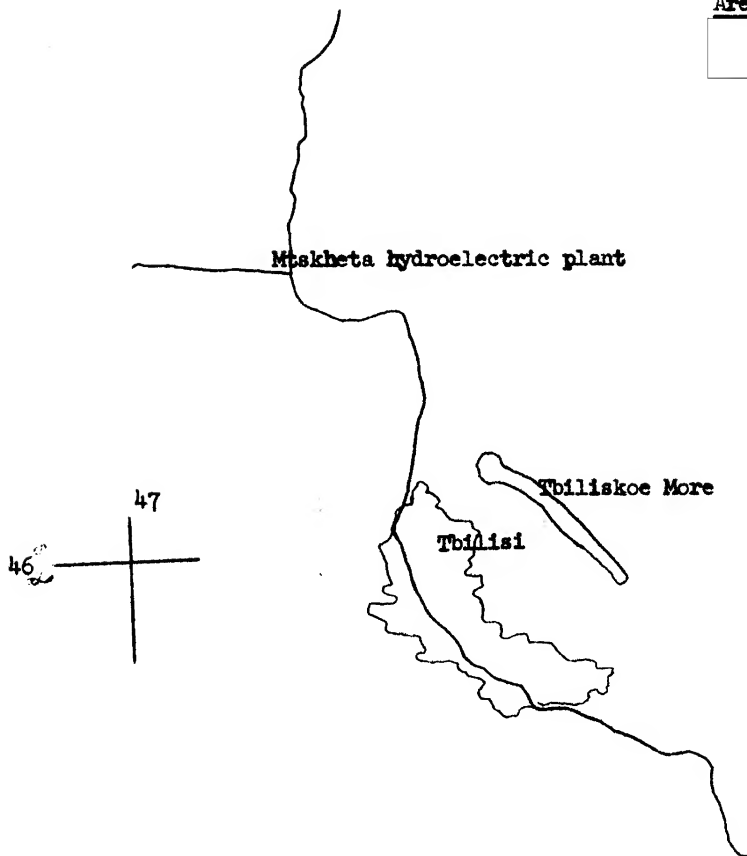
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Area Overlay Tbilisi

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MOUNTAINS

